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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

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TOPIC Arrival of KVP Units in Berlin-Johannisthal.EVALUATION           PLACE OBTAINED           

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DATE OF CONTENT 2 to 14 September 1953

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DATE OBTAINED            DATE PREPARED 1 October 1953

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REFERENCES           PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)           REMARKS           

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1. At 3 p.m. on 2 September 1953, a KVP general with gold-braided epaulets and light red collar patches and stripes along the outer seams of his trousers arrived in Tatra sedan            at the former VPL installation in Berlin-Johannisthal. The major general who was accompanied by 4 Soviet officers, of whom one had a black, the second a blue, and the other two a green longitudinal stripe on their epaulets, inspected the billets, which were occupied by a KVP guard platoon whose members wore crimson collar patches and who were daily trucked there from Biesdorf.
2. In the nights between 11 and 14 September, a total of 1,500 KVPs of various branches of service arrived in three truck columns at the former VPL quarters in Berlin-Johannisthal. Heavy weapons were not observed. The troops had allegedly come from Ueckermuende and were to move to Buch near Berlin. In the night of 13/14 September, 1,700 KVPs with 10 armored scout cars arrived at the installation. The unit was to stay there.

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           Comment. Transportation reports indicate that between 11 and 13 September the units of Division Prora which had previously been employed in East Berlin were released by other component units of this division and possibly also by units of Division Eggesin.           . The temporary occupation of the installation in Johannisthal as mentioned in the present report is believed to be connected with this release. At first sight it appears improbable that units from Ueckermuende should be transferred to Buch, northeast of Berlin on the railroad line to Bernau, after temporarily staying in Johannisthal. Since the tent camp at Friedrichsfeld was observed vacated by            the afternoon of 13 September, the units involved may also be scheduled to move to this camp. However, this assumption is not supported by the fact that security measures were lifted at the tent camp on 13 September, which would indicate that the installation

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was going to be vacated for good. [REDACTED]  
The definite utilization of the installation in Johannisthal is not yet clear. The unit observed there may have been tank regiment Eckart, which, [REDACTED] moved by road to Johannisthal, in the strength of 1,100 men, on 9 September. The unit did not take its tanks along. [REDACTED] the installation involved is earmarked to house the headquarters of the newly organized KVP Bereitschaft Berlin. It is not yet clear which of the KVP units at present stationed in Berlin will be incorporated into the new Bereitschaft.

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